

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system are provided for dynamically shortening a number of error correction codewords to correspond to an amount of user data to be recorded on a recording medium. The system and method determine in advance that the number of bytes of user data will only fill a portion of a codeword matrix, and automatically shortens the size of ECC word segments to match the actual user data fill. This allows an ECC interleave to be completed with only a partial fill of the matrix, thereby reducing the required number of recording passes and associated processing time.